GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:492
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS SHRINES IN LONDON
Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh;Jai Parkash Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report from the Indian High Commissioner on the reported damage caused to certain religious shrines particularly Sikh Gurdwaras in London recently on account of the bomb blasts there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the renovation of the same;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the UK Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the UK Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a&b) Yes. Following the 7th July 2005 terrorist bomb blasts in London, there have been reports of isolated incidents of minor attacks against Gurdwaras in South London, Kent and Leeds. No major damage has been reported.

(c&d) Government of India expressed deep shock at reports about attacks on the places of Sikh worship in the UK. It has asked the British Government to take all necessary steps to apprehend the perpetrators of these attacks and protect the Sikh community. The British authorities have assured that they would work with community leaders to ensure safety and security of all communities.